

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A MHC class II antigenic peptide comprising
  - (a) ~~the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 49 to 57 and SEQ ID NOs. 103 to 122, or~~
  - (b) ~~the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 49 to 57 and SEQ ID NOs. 103 to 122,~~ with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of a corresponding sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 1 to 3 ~~39 and SEQ ID NOs. 58 to 102.~~
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
  - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 103, or
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 103 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NOs. 58 and 59.
4. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
  - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 104, or
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 104 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 60.
5. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
  - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO.105, or
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 105 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 61.
6. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 106,  
or
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 106 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 62.

7. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 107, or
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 107 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 63.

8. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 50, or
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 50 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 5.

9. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 108, or
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 108 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NOs. 64 to 67.

10. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 109, or
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 109 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 68.

11. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
  - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 110, or
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 110 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NOs. 69 and 70.
12. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
  - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 111, or
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 111 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 72.
13. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 comprising
  - (a) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 112, or
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the peptide binding motif of SEQ ID NO. 112 with additional N-and C-terminal flanking sequences of the corresponding sequence of SEQ ID NO. 73.
14. (Previously amended) The MHC class II antigenic peptide of claim 1 linked to a MHC class II molecule.
15. (Previously amended) A purified antibody composition which is selectively reactive to a MHC class II antigenic peptide according to claim 1.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Previously Amended) A host cell containing a recombinant nucleic acid construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule operably linked to an expression vector, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a peptide according to claim 1.

18. (Previously amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 17.

19-22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a MHC class II antigenic peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the MHC class II antigenic peptide is selected from the peptide(s) of claim 1 or SEQ ID NOs 40 to 48 and SEQ. ID NOs 123 to 141.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously amended) A method for diagnosing RA comprising detecting in a patient serum sample the presence of one or more peptides selected from the group consisting of claim 1 or SEQ ID NOs 40 to 48 and SEQ. ID NOs 123 to 141.

26. - 30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody according to claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.